

Message Text

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PAGE 01 OTTAWA 03451 052233Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05
EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03
H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07
NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 /101 W
-----061531Z 026802 /53

R 052021Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3349
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL
ALL OTHER AMCONSULS IN CANADA (BY POUCH)

UNCLAS OTTAWA 03451

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, CA
SUBJECT: PROVINCIAL FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING, OTTAWA,
MAY 4

1. SUMMARY: PROVINCIAL FINANCE MINISTERS MEETING WITH
FINMIN MACDONALD ON MAY 4 FAILED REACH CONSENSUS ON DATE
FOR ENDING CONTROLS PROGRAM BUT APPARENTLY AGREED ON NEED
FOR MONITORING AGENCY AFTER CONTROLS LIFTED. MACDONALD
TOLD PRESS GOC WOULD PROBABLY ANNOUNCE DATE AFTER OBTAINING
PUBLIC REACTION TO "GREEN PAPER" ON CONTROLS TO BE ISSUED
LATER THIS MONTH. END SUMMARY.

2. MEETING IN OTTAWA ON MAY 4 OF PROVINCIAL FINANCE
MINISTERS WITH FINMIN MACDONALD PRODUCED SOME GENERAL
AGREEMENT ON NEED FOR MONITORING AGENCY TO BE ESTABLISHED
FOLLOWING END OF WAGE AND PROFIT CONTROLS PROGRAM, BUT NO
CONSENSUS ON DATE FOR TERMINATION OF PROGRAM. REPORTEDLY
MANITOBA AND SASKATCHEWAN MINISTERS WANTED EARLY END TO
CONTROLS WHEREAS BRITISH COLUMBIA FAVORED KEEPING CONTROLS
UNTIL DECEMBER 1978. OTHER PROVINCES' POSITIONS FELL
BETWEEN THESE EXTREMES.

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3. AT PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING MEETING, MACDONALD TOLD
REPORTERS HE WANTED TO END AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNCERTAINTY
OVER DATE OF DECONTROL BUT THAT GOC WOULD BE ISSUING "GREEN
PAPER" ON CONTROLS THIS MONTH AND WOULD WAIT FOR PUBLIC
REACTION BEFORE DECIDING TERMINATION OF PROGRAM.

4. MACDONALD ALSO SAID THAT PROVINCIAL MINISTERS WERE AGREED THAT PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL EMPLOYEES SHOULD NOT BE TREATED DIFFERENTLY THAN WORKERS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY IN DECONTROL PERIOD. (IT HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY SPECULATED THAT CIVIL SERVANTS WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CONTROLS FOR LONGER PERIOD THAN PRIVATE EMPLOYEES SINCE MANY ECONOMISTS HAD BLAMED HIGH WAGE INCREASES IN PUBLIC SECTOR FOR "CUTTING EDGE" OF WAGE SPIRAL IN 1974 AND 1975.)

5. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS FINANCIAL MINISTERS' MEETING, QUEBEC'S FINMIN PARIZEAU REFUSED TO TALK WITH REPORTERS AFTER MEETING AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HE TOOK LITTLE PART IN MINISTERS' DISCUSSIONS.

6. COMMENT: IT NOW APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT CONTROLS WILL END BEFORE THIS FALL, PERHAPS AT THE TWO-YEAR BIRTHDAY OF CONTROLS IN OCTOBER. ENDERS

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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